

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 580

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis

February 16, 2011

An act to add Chapter 3.9 (commencing with Section 8680) to Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to civil rights education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 580, as introduced, Davis. Civil rights education: California Civil Rights Education Advisory Committee.

Existing law establishes the system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state. Existing law establishes courses of study to be pursued by elementary and secondary school pupils. The State Department of Education is required to incorporate, into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources for teacher use, those materials that are age-appropriate and consistent with subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

This bill would establish the 14-member California Civil Rights Education Advisory Committee in the State Department of Education. The bill would require the advisory committee to study and review the history-social science framework developed by the History-Social Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee of the state board, and advise the state board and the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission on the inclusion of civil rights education in the history-social science framework and criteria for evaluating instructional materials.

The bill would specify the leaders of the entities responsible for the appointment of the members of the advisory committee. The bill would provide that members of the advisory committee would receive no compensation for their services, but would be reimbursed for the expenses they incur while performing their duties. The State Department of Education would be authorized to apply for, and receive, gifts and grants from public and private sources for purposes of supporting the expenses incurred in operating the advisory committee.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the
2 following:

3 (a) Understanding the important role of the Civil Rights
4 Movement in the lives of African Americans and all other
5 Americans, and understanding the importance of teaching
6 California's children all of our history, it is the goal of the
7 Legislature to provide meaningful support to this most important
8 endeavor.

9 (b) California's role in the struggle for civil rights also needs
10 to be formalized and taught as a beacon of hope for all Californians.

11 SEC. 2. Chapter 3.9 (commencing with Section 8680) is added
12 to Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, to read:

13
14 CHAPTER 3.9. CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION ADVISORY
15 COMMITTEE

16
17 8680. (a) The California Civil Rights Education Advisory
18 Committee is hereby established within the department.

19 (b) The advisory committee shall study and review the
20 history-social science framework developed by the History-Social
21 Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee of the
22 state board, and advise the state board and the Curriculum
23 Development and Supplemental Materials Commission on the
24 inclusion of civil rights education in the history-social science
25 framework and criteria for evaluating instructional materials. In
26 completing these tasks, the advisory committee may act as a liaison
27 with various entities, including, but not necessarily limited to, the

1 United States Congress, the California Legislature, the National
2 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as well as
3 other national and international agencies.

4 8681. (a) The advisory committee shall consist of 14 members,
5 who shall serve three-year terms. A member shall not serve more
6 than two terms.

7 (b) The members of the advisory committee shall be as follows:

8 (1) The Superintendent.

9 (2) The President of the University of California or his or her
10 designee.

11 (3) The Chancellor of the California State University or his or
12 her designee.

13 (4) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges or
14 his or her designee.

15 (5) Ten members appointed by the Superintendent, as follows:

16 (A) At least two of the members appointed by the Superintendent
17 pursuant to this paragraph shall represent a civil rights organization,
18 including, but not necessarily limited to, the California State
19 Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of
20 Colored People.

21 (B) At least five of the members appointed by the Superintendent
22 pursuant to this paragraph shall be teachers at public elementary
23 or secondary schools.

24 (c) The members of the advisory committee shall be California
25 residents, and shall be appointed with due regard for broad
26 geographic representation.

27 (d) The advisory committee shall have a chairperson, who shall
28 be designated from the membership of the advisory committee.

29 (e) Members of the advisory committee shall receive no
30 compensation for the performance of their duties, but shall be
31 reimbursed for the expenses they incur in performing these duties.

32 8682. The department may apply for, and receive, gifts, grants,
33 and donations from any public or private sources, including, but
34 not necessarily limited to, federal funds and private foundation
35 grants for purposes of supporting the expenses incurred in operating
36 the advisory committee.